

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, GT (HERNANDEZ OSORIOS, JAVIER) (CASASOLA LEMUS,

SERGIO

SUBJECT: TQ INTTERNATIONAL VISITORS PROGRAM

REF: GUATEMALA 5302

APPRECIATE INTEREST IN EXPOSING IVS TO U.S. POLITICS, HOWEVER, SPECIFIC PROPOSAL CONTAINED REFTTEL NOT FEASIBLE FOR SEVERAL REASONS. INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM NOT DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO NEWSPAPERS/AGENCIES WHICH ARE A NORMAL PART OF THEIR OPERATING EXPENSES. FINAN- Cially, ASSIGNMENT TO A CAMPAIGN FOR EVEN ONE WEEK, WITH AIRFARE OFTEN EXCEEDING THAT OF FIRST CLASS AND ITINERARY WHICH CRISS-CROSSES U.S. WOULD PUT COSTS FAR BEYOND GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE. SINCE ESCORT/INTERPRETER COULD NOT ACCOMPANY, FLUENCY IN ENGLISH WOULD BE ESSENTIAL. PROGRAM AGENCY HIGHLY DOUBTFUL THAT IT COULD OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR SUCH ASSIGNMENT WITHOUT SOME PERSONAL CONTACT BETWEEN GRANTEES' EMPLOYERS AND CAMPAIGN MANAGERS OR CANDIDATES. ALSO, BECAUSE OF NATURE OF CAMPAIGN TRAVEL, GRANTEES WOULD NOT RECEIVE THE KIND OF CONSIDERATION DEPARTMENT BELIEVES APPROPRIATE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE IV PROGRAM. GRANTEES SHOULD PLAN THEIR VISIT OBJECTIVES WITH A VIEW TO MORE GENERAL, BROAD-BASED DISCUSSIONS ON THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

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AT NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS AND CITIZEN ATTITUDES OR

PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS, IN ORDER GAIN FULLER COM-
PREHENSION OF HOW U.S. POLITICS OPERATES WITHIN A
PLURALISTIC, DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. KISSINGER

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